

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Roy Stearns

(916) 654-7538

Do your part and take part

Earth Day 2005 Events in State Parks April 22-23

You can do your part and take part when thousands of volunteers help clean parks, repair and build trails and work on Earth Day projects throughout California on April 22 and 23.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for you to help make California great and give something back to our parks," said State Park Director Ruth Coleman. "We can't do it without our volunteers and we want everyone to visit a park or a beach and help us clean up. There are all kinds of projects, including some in which families can participate together."

California State Parks is joining the California State Parks Foundation to participate in Earth Day events and projects throughout the state. The Foundation, with generous support from numerous co-sponsors, has awarded more than \$570,000 in grants over the past eight years. More than 45,000 volunteers have contributed more than 188,000 hours of work resulting in an estimated \$4.2 million in park maintenance and improvements.

Volunteers can call 1-888-98 PARKS or log on to www.calparks.org.

Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area will host Earth Day, a day to "clean up and green up," from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. on April 23. For more information, contact Suzanne Granger or Roger Miller at the Ocotillo Wells District at (760) 767-5391.

- 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. -- Welcome, sign-ups and a breakfast courtesy of the Blu-Inn; 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. -- Area clean up; 11 a.m. to noon -- Lunch courtesy of the Badlands Café; Noon to 1 p.m. -- Time to take home and foster a potted ocotillo cutting. The cutting comes with care instructions. Plants will be brought back in November for the second half of the clean up and green up program.

The event will be held at Holmes Camp at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Due to the event, there will be no camping at Holmes Camp on April 22 and 23. Visitors may turn north on Wolfe Well off Highway 78. Follow the road to Holmes Camp road, and turn right. Local sponsors include: Los Pretos, San Diego Off Road Coalition, JD Built Signs, The Badlands Cafe, the Blu-Inn, Desert Ironwoods and Borrego Water.

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area is seeking 100 volunteers for numerous projects at Lake Natoma. On Saturday, April 23, volunteers will help with trail cleanup, litter pickup, exotic plant removal, and Graffiti abatement. Please meet at the Negro Bar Day Use area of Lake Natoma at 8 a.m. The projects should be completed by 1 p.m. Volunteers are asked to wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, boots, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Volunteers under 18 will need a parental signed release on the day of the event. For more information please call Michael Gross at (916) 988-0205.

Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove is having a special event on Friday, April 22 with local school children and staff from Delaware North and California State Parks planting wildflowers, removing non-native grasses, and creating arts and crafts projects from recycled materials. For more information, call (831) 372-4080.

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